



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT SELECTS NEW COMMISSIONER

The judges of the Ventura Superior Court have announced the selection of Ellen Gay Conroy as the court's newest commissioner. She will fill the vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of Superior Court Commissioner Gary K. Barrett on March 24.

Commissioner Conroy was in private practice as a family law attorney for more than 14 years. During that period she regularly sat as a Judge Pro Tem in the family law courts. In 1997, she left private practice to take the position of Family Law Facilitator with the Ventura Superior Court, providing education and outreach assistance to unrepresented litigants in family law matters. As facilitator, she initiated the Family Law Pro Per Clinics, Initial Dissolution Classes, and the Family Law Self-Help Center. After leaving the court in late 2001, she opened her own family law mediation practice.

Commissioner Conroy is a past president of the family law section of the Ventura County Bar Association. She has been an adjunct professor at the Ventura College of Law, teaching Family Law Practice. She chaired the California Family Law Facilitators Association from its inception until leaving the court in 2001. She has been a frequent speaker statewide on services to unrepresented parties.

Commissioner Conroy received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her juris doctorate, with honors, from the Ventura College of Law. She studied Family Law Mediation at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law.

Superior Court Commissioners hear matters including, but not limited to, Family Law, Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency, Child Support Services, Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, Traffic, Criminal and Small Claims. They are required to have been

admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of California for at least ten years and serve at the pleasure of a majority of the court judges.

Commissioners may be assigned to any court location in the county, which include Ventura, Simi Valley and Oxnard.

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